

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 were present for examination in the subject application and stand rejected primarily on the basis of Andreou et al. , U.S. 5,712,626. The above amendment amends claims 1-9 to more distinctly point out the two-part nature of applicant's arrangement and to clarify the operation of the respective parts. Claims 10 and 11 have been added to recite the inclusion and nature of a learn mode of operation.

Applicants amended claim 1 is directed to a barrier movement operator system which comprises a fingerprint communication unit which is active to generate a signal representing a sensed fingerprint and which emits a signal representing the sensed fingerprint to a barrier movement operator which is remote from the fingerprint communication unit and inside a secure area, and which controls the position of a barrier if the received fingerprint signal represents an authorized user.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as anticipated by Andreou et al. which primarily teaches a non-fingerprint activated system. The possible use of fingerprints to activate the system of Andreou et al. is discussed at column 19, lines 18-43 thereof.

Andreou et al. discloses a security arrangement comprising an electronic door lock (EDL) and a hand held controller (HHC) for generating and transmitting codes to the EDL. The HHC is shown in Andreou et al., Fig. 6 while the EDL is shown in Fig. 7. The HHC, which may be remote from the EDL, is disclosed as only transmitting codes to the EDL, not fingerprint signals. The only place that a fingerprint scanner (512) is shown or discussed is as a part of the EDL, not remote from it. As stated at column 19, lines 25-28, the fingerprint is scanned by the EDL. That is, the fingerprint scanner does not generate a fingerprint signal and

emit it to the EDL. Instead, the EDL obtains such a signal on its own by scanning the fingerprint device. Thus, a device remote from the access controller for generating a fingerprint signal is not taught or suggested by Andreou et al. The EDL generates the fingerprint signal itself. This is clearly confirmed by column 19, lines 28-31 which states that the fingerprint scanner does not even need a battery. It is passive. As taught and suggested by Andreou et al., the fingerprint sensor does not generate a fingerprint representing signal and emitting it as claimed, but only provides a medium by which the EDL generates the fingerprint representing signal directly. Thus, Andreou et al. does not teach or suggest the claimed fingerprint communication unit, remote from an access controller for generating signals representing fingerprints and emitting such signals to a barrier movement operator (access controller) inside the secure area. Accordingly, Andreou et al. does not anticipate applicant's claim 1.

Claims 2-11 are asserted to be allowable due to their dependence on claim 1. Further, claim 5 recites that the combination of claim 1 further uses radio frequency signals to communicate fingerprint represent signals. Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 on the basis of Andreou et al. in view of Fishbine 5,467,403 which discloses the rf transmission of images of fingerprints to a central station for police suspect identification. Nothing in Fishbine suggests the remote securing of fingerprint signals and control of access to a secure region by rf transmitted fingerprint signals remote from the EDL and rf transmission of fingerprint signals. Accordingly, the combination of references does not suggest the combination represented in claim 5.

Newly added claims 10 and 11 recite a learning mode of operation of the barrier movement operator system. Such is

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disclosed in the application from page 11, line 16 through page 12, line 7. As claimed, the barrier movement operator includes a learn mode of operation during which a fingerprint representing signal from the transmitter can be stored in memory of the barrier movement operator. Claim 11 adds that the fingerprint signal stored during the learn mode is used to verify authorized users. Nothing in the known references teaches or suggests such a learn mode of operation to store authorized fingerprint signals.

In view of the foregoing, applicant asserts that all claims 1-11 are allowable as they now stand.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 during its entire pendency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully requested,

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